



Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations: Working Against Bigotry and Bullying

Like many of the issues that confront the Attorney General's Office each day, combating bigotry and bias crime is a matter not only of enforcement, but outreach.

In 2005, the Attorney General's Office continued to make reducing bigotry — and the anti-social behavior that often accompanies it — one of its leading priorities, largely through the work of its Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations (OBCCR) within the Division of Criminal Justice.

Led by Chief Hester Agadosi, the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations is re-

sponsible for the statewide monitoring of bias crime incidents. The office trains law enforcement officers in the investigation of bias crime, offers programs in sensitivity and diversity training for students and teachers, and assists county and municipal human relations commissions in addressing the concerns of their diverse communities.

The OBCCR also responds to communities in need of assistance in coping with crises that stem from ethnic, racial, religious or other cultural tensions. The priorities of the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations extend beyond

Contrary to the stereotype of the childhood bully, bullying comes in many different forms and is engaged in by a wide range of people.



Suspected skinheads aimed to kill, cops say

BY RICK HEPP
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Two alleged neo-Nazis who face federal charges for illegally selling firearms had their sights set much higher — killing minorities in southern New Jersey by detonating a bomb similar to the one used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, authorities said.

One of the suspected skinheads, Gabriel Carafa, 24, of Pennsville, Salem County, approached a man — who turned out to be a confidential informant working with the state Division of Criminal Justice's Office of Bias Crimes — in January and began looking for cohorts

"We believe the target of the bombing plan would have been members of the community," a spokesman for the Office of Bias Crimes said. "The informant was using an undercover agent to catch Carafa."

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NEWS

Manchester man faces federal charges

STAFF REPORT

TRENTON -- A Manchester resident was among two alleged members of neo-Nazi skinhead groups arrested on a federal charge of possession of stolen weapons by convicted felon, Attorney General Peter C. Harvey announced Monday. The charge, 21C, of Trenton

An extensive undercover investigation was coordinated by state investigators assigned to the Division of Criminal Justice — Office of Bias Crimes, with the assistance of special agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. On Monday, the complaints

Each defendant could face a prison term of 15 years to life if convicted.

The six-month undercover investigation, which initially focused on Carafa and a request to have a confidential informant construct a bomb re-

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law enforcement. They include the development of prototype education and preventive programs, as well as specific activities to reduce bias crime and biased-based bullying.

Enforcement: Prosecuting Bias Activity

Throughout the year, the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations worked jointly with county and municipal law enforcement agencies to assist with, and monitor, approximately 470 bias incidents reported statewide. At this writing, there are 20 active bias case investigations pending.

In May 2005, OBCCR investigators were responsible for the arrest of convicted felons Gabriel Carafa and Craig Orlor. The six-month investigation initially focused on an attempt by Carafa, who had already served time for bias intimidation and terroristic threats against a family of Indian descent in Ocean County, to have a confidential police informant build a bomb.

The case later developed into an investigation of the sale of stolen weapons to undercover state investigators and federal agents by both Carafa and Orlor. Both Carafa and Orlor were on parole at the time of the alleged weapon sales. And both, by virtue of their past records, were statutorily prohibited from owning or possessing weapons.

Carafa, whose 2004 bias intimidation case was prosecuted by OBCCR, has been identified as a leader of such bias groups as Church of the Creator and a neo-Nazi skinhead group known as "The Hated."

The Office of Bias Crimes and Community Relations deferred prosecution of both Carafa and Orlor, and instead referred the cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia. Each defendant

faces a federal prison term of at least 15 years upon conviction for the pending criminal complaints.

The Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations also responded in 2005 to various ethnic tensions that arose from bias crimes targeting undocumented Hispanic residents in Union, Monmouth, Morris and Cumberland counties.

Preventing Bias Crime and Bullying

Through training and outreach programs, the OBCCR continued in 2005 to work against bias crime and bullying. Among its successful and popular programs were:

- ◆ **New Jersey Bias Crime Training Program —**

A comprehensive one-day seminar for law enforcement officers on the essentials of bias crime.

- ◆ **Educational Training —**

Approximately 7,500 students, teachers, administrators, and other persons throughout the state were trained in the area of bias crime and cultural diversity in 2005 through OBCCR's programs. Response by OBCCR to the needs of various schools in 2005 included staff and student training, as well as the provision of technical assistance to school districts that reported an increase in bias crime, bias-related incidents, and racial tension. In addition to educators, OBCCR staff provided training to students, law enforcement officers, community and civic groups, and human relations commissions on bias crime and cultural diversity.

- ◆ **Referral Hotlines —**

OBCCR maintains a telephone hotline for victims of bias crime and a separate telephone hotline for those concerned about bullying. Both hotlines help victims via telephone refer-

als to law enforcement agencies, human service providers and trained volunteers. Anyone concerned that he or she has been the victim of bias crime is urged to call 1-800-277-BIAS (2427). Anyone concerned that he or she has been the victim of bullying can call 1-877-NO-BULLY (662-8559).

In addition to its training and outreach programs, the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations provides administrative and program support for the New Jersey State Human Relations Council, and the Attorney General's Arab and Muslim Advisory Committee.

Conferences/Special Events

On May 17, 2005, the Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations hosted a conference under the title "New Jersey Cares About Cyber-Bullying" at the New Jersey State Police Technology Building in Hamilton Township. The conference featured a series of workshops that explored the growing trend among young people toward Internet "cyber-bullying" — bullying conducted on-line, via e-mail, chat rooms and other direct communication options available through the Web. Approximately 200 educators and members of law enforcement attended the event. There was a second cyber-bullying conference in November 2005.

Other important conferences sponsored by the OBCCR in 2005 included the First Annual Arab and Muslim Clergy Leadership Conference and the Ninth Annual Human Relations Conference. The Muslim Clergy Leadership Conference was designed to bring together the leadership of the Arab and Muslim clergy from across New Jersey to share information, ideas and concerns, and to learn about the resources and initiatives offered by the Attorney General's Office. The Human Relations Conference was held in conjunction with the New Jersey State Human Relations Council. Approximately 100 people representing human relations commissions attended the session, taking part in workshops designed to focus attention on the importance of using education as a tool to combat prejudice. Additional information about OBCCR is available by visiting www.NJBiasCrime.org.



This Logo is being used in an ongoing anti-bullying campaign to raise awareness regarding this important issue confronting New Jersey's children. The campaign also includes outreach by the Office of Bias Crimes and Community Relations to schools throughout the State.